

UNCLAS MAPUTO 000173

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/RSA

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: DHRF SOLICITATION FOR FY2004

REF: STATE 14421

1. Post appreciates receiving FY2003 DHRF funding in the amount of \$70,000. These funds are critical to raising awareness of human rights concerns and supporting civil society play a more active role in Mozambique's democratic consolidation. A status report for FY2002/2003 funds will be sent septel. For FY 2004, post requests an increase of \$30,000, for total FY2004 funding of \$100,000. Increased funding would focus on the following three areas described below.

2. A - Elections. In late 2004, Mozambique will hold it's third multi-party presidential elections since independence in 1975. The current constitutionally-elected president, Joaquim Chissano, will step down after having served two terms. Chissano and the leadership of FRELIMO dominate policy-making and implementation. Mozambique's second municipal elections were held on November 19. FRELIMO dominated the elections, winning 28 out of the country's 33 municipalities. Voter turn-out during the November elections was low, with less than 28% of registered voters participating. The principal opposition party, RENAMO, lacks technical and financial resources; independent and small-party candidates play an insignificant role. Though the November municipal elections were generally well administered and described as free and fair by international and local observers, a number of outstanding issues will need to be addressed before the 2004 presidential elections. In particular, the National Assembly must promulgate a new electoral law and discrepancies in the voter registration lists used in the November elections must be addressed. Priority areas for DHRF funding could include civil education and outreach for voters and parties, and expanded local election observation.

3. B- Gender Equality. After years of discussion and months of parliamentary debate, a new Family Law was passed by the National Assembly in December. The new law replaces large portions of the colonial-era Civic Code and brings the law in line with equality provisions in the constitution. Primary provisions of the new law include raising the marriage age to 18 for both sexes; eliminating the provision that husbands are de facto "head of family"; and legalizing civil, religious and co-habitant based marriages. While the new law is an important step forward in protecting and promoting women's rights in Mozambique, domestic violence and widespread discrimination against women in the workplace and with regard to property rights remain significant problems. Key to the effective implementation of the new law will be educating Mozambicans about the law's provisions. The Ministry of Women and Social Action Coordination does not have adequate technical or financial resources to undertake an education campaign about the law. DHRF grants could be used to undertake a media and education campaign about the law's provisions.

4. C- Trafficking in Persons. Mozambique serves as a country of origin for trafficked women and children. South Africa serves as the principal receiving country. Poverty, a history of child migration, weak border controls, and traditional cultural practices are all factors contributing to trafficking. Over the past year, there has been increased attention in the press and among government officials to the problem of trafficking in persons in Mozambique. President Chissano acknowledged the reality of trafficking in persons during his New Year's Day address, and the Attorney General is currently investigating allegations of trafficking in children (in the context of organ trafficking) in Nampula province. In September, the government launched a program of consultation with civil society on how to enhance the country's child protection policies, including trafficking in children. Mozambique does not have anti-trafficking legislation, though trafficking can be addressed under other laws. Additional efforts have included the "Campaign Against Trafficking in Children," launched in 2001, which is aimed at raising awareness of the issue. Post is currently supporting several anti-trafficking or related projects through DHRF, including a series of technical seminars for immigration officials. Increased DHRF funding could expand on existing programs by providing greater geographic coverage of programs.

LA LIME